

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

15 January 1985

Mr. Robert Bartley
Editor, The Wall Street Journal
22 Cortlandt Street
New York, New York 10007

Dear Bob:

Here is my letter to the editor on last Friday's
Ignatius article. I enclose also the talk on what's
happening in the Third World which I gave at The Union
League Club in New York last week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

William J. Casey

Enclosures (2)

The Director of Central Intelligence

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The Editor
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To the Editor:

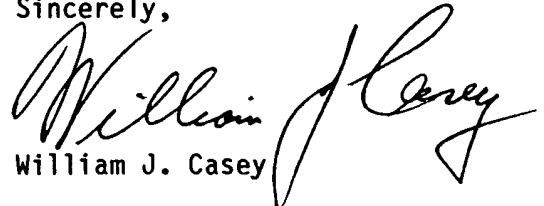
I am complimented that the JOURNAL devoted a front-page article to me on January 11; however, Mr. Ignatius started out flat wrong in his story that many years ago I tried to purchase a house already promised to the Japanese embassy and that the "brash Mr. Casey didn't get the house." He got the story upside down. Not only did I "get the house" and live happily in it for seven years, but the Japanese embassy had tried to purchase the house that had been promised to me--not the other way around!

Mr. Ignatius also claims that I sent one particular estimate "back for revision nine times." The record is that I saw and commented on the last two drafts. What happened was that the analyst who drafted the estimate, based on his 20 years of experience in the region and months of research and visits to the area, felt that deletions made by another staff officer would alter or suppress significant information and judgments at which the analyst had arrived. My role was to restore some of the deletions to ensure that, on a controversial subject, the policymakers got the full range of judgments prevailing in the American Intelligence Community. The estimate was approved unanimously by the heads of all the members of the Intelligence Community. The production of this estimate was reviewed by the House Intelligence Committee which concluded last week in its annual report that: "dissenting views were printed at the very beginning of the study, a practice the Committee applauds."

While I cannot comment on Mr. Ignatius' allegations attributing certain covert activities to me, your readers should know that any such activity must be directed, authorized and funded by those in the Executive Branch responsible for our national security and the Congress as well.

What would the JOURNAL say about a CIA report so imprecise?

Sincerely,


William J. Casey

REMARKS OF WILLIAM J. CASEY

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

before

THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB

The Union League Club

New York City

Wednesday, 9 January 1985